

Appl. No. : **09/682,599**
Filed : **September 9, 2001**

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced application are respectfully requested.

In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, each of claims 5, 11, and 17-19 have been amended into independent form as suggested. The subject matter of claims 2 and 5 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 2 and 5 are canceled. The subject matter of claims 10 and 11 have been incorporated into claim 9, and claims 10 and 11 have been canceled.

Claims 17-19 were also indicated as allowable. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended into independent form. The limitations of claim 19 have been incorporated into claim 13, and claim 19 has been accordingly cancelled.

Since this complies with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully suggested that this should not constitute new issues, and should be considered and entered after final. However, should any questions remain after considering this amendment, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the below referenced telephone number.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the

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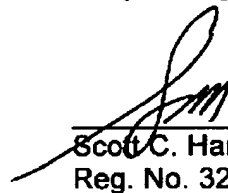
amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

For all of these reasons, it is respectfully suggested that all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is hence respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees due in connection with this response to Deposit Account No. 50-1387.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-7-2005



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